INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61C17/028 A61C A61C3/025 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category * Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1,2,6,9, DE 33 22 716 A (MOSER GMBH KUNO) X 3 January 1985 (1985-01-03) 10,13-18 the whole document & US 4 214 871 A (ARNOLD CARTER H) 1-4,6,7, X 9,16 29 July 1980 (1980-07-29) the whole document 1-19 US 4 961 698 A (VLOCK DAVID G) Α 9 October 1990 (1990-10-09) the whole document 1 - 19US 5 474 451 A (DALRYMPLE JON ET AL) Α 12 December 1995 (1995-12-12) the whole document Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date: *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the International search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 26/11/2004 15 November 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31-70) 340-9016 Fouquet, M

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